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Six Harvard Mideast specialists seek end to use of CIA funds

Faculty members at Harvard University's Center for Middle Eastern Studies have written faculty dean A. Michael Spence requesting that the university prohibit the use of CIA funding at the center.

The letter, signed by six faculty members and a research assistant, cites the possibility of reduced access to research sources, potentially suspicious foreign governments and individuals and the danger of physical harm as potential results of accepting CIA funding.

The letter suggests that the center develop its own guidelines for accepting funds from controversial sources, saying

the guidelines should be more strict than those for the university as a whole because of the sensitive nature of research conducted at the center.

The letter comes after a controversy surrounding the acceptance of a \$45,7000 grant from the Central Intelligence Agency by the center's director, professor Nadav Safran, to organize a two-day conference on Moslem fundamentalism and Middle Eastern politics.

Spence concluded in a letter released last Thursday that Safran "erred" by not informing conference participants or the university of the CIA funding.